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THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
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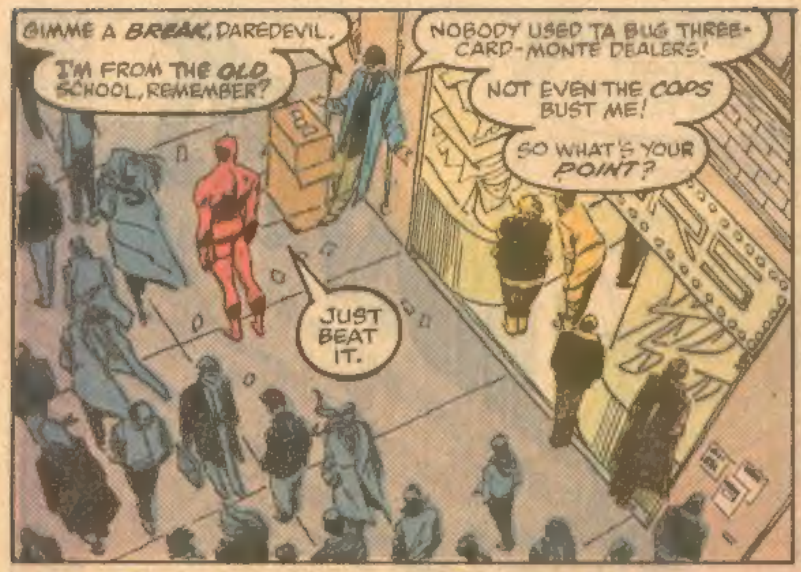
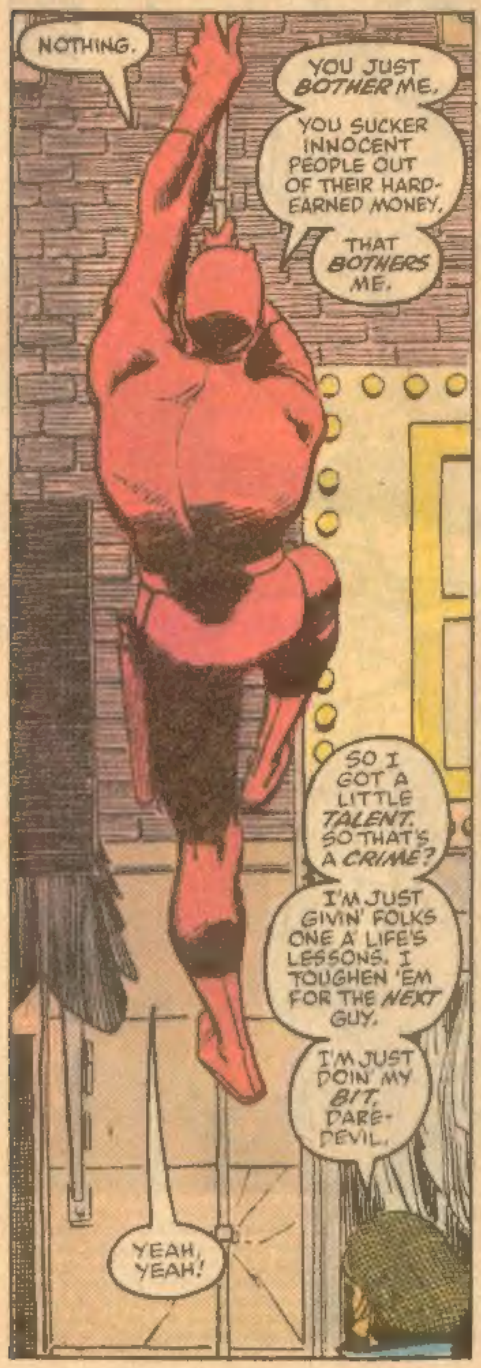
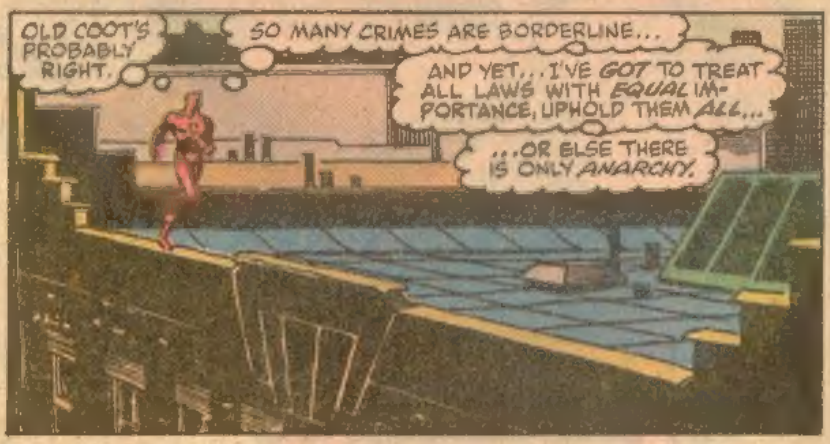
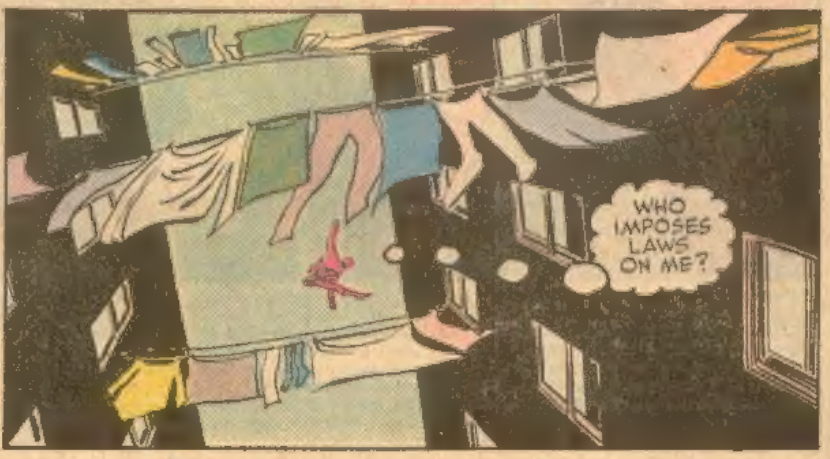

GIMME A BREAK, DAREDEVIL. I'M FROM THE OLD SCHOOL, REMEMBER?
NOBODY USED TA BUG THREE-CARD-MONTE DEALERS!
NOT EVEN THE COPS BUST ME!
SO WHAT'S YOUR POINT?
JUST BEAT IT.

SO I BUY A NEW DECK, SO I MOVE A BLOCK, SO WHAT DID YOU PROVE?


NOTHING.
YOU JUST BOTHER ME.
YOU SUCKER INNOCENT PEOPLE OUT OF THEIR HARD-EARNED MONEY.
THAT BOTHERS ME.
SO I GOT A LITTLE TALENT. SO THAT'S A CRIME?
I'M JUST GIVIN' FOLKS ONE A' LIFE'S LESSONS. I TOUGHEN 'EM FOR THE NEXT GUY.
I'M JUST DOIN' MY BIT, DARE-DEVIL.
YEAH, YEAH!


OLD COOT'S PROBABLY RIGHT.
SO MANY CRIMES ARE BORDERLINE...
AND YET... I'VE GOT TO TREAT ALL LAWS WITH EQUAL IM-PORTANCE; UPHOLD THEM ALL...
...OR ELSE THERE IS ONLY ANARCHY.

BUT WHERE DO I FIT IN?
I'M OUT-SIDE THE LAW, YET I ENFORCE IT.
I'M THE IRONIC CONTRADICTION TO THE SYSTEM.
OR AM I JUST FOOLING MYSELF?


WHO IMPOSES LAWS ON ME?

HEY! TWO BLOCKS EAST --THAT'S HER PERFUME!
YES, WHO IMPOSES LAWS ON ME...
AND WHAT ABOUT THE MORAL UNIVERSE? A WORLD WHERE THE LAWS AREN'T BACKED BY THE COURTS?
THE WHOLE REALM OF BEHAVIOR NOT GOVERNED BY ENFORCEABLE LAW.
LIKE HOW TO BE KIND AND ETHICAL AND NOT HURT OTHERS.

THE RUDE WORD, THE SUBTLE MANIPULATION, THE CRUSHING OF ANOTHER'S SPIRIT--
--WHO STOPS A PERSON FROM BEING A MORAL CRIMINAL?
BY BEING WEAK OR CARELESS YOU CAN BE VERY DESTRUCTIVE TO THE ONES YOU LOVE.

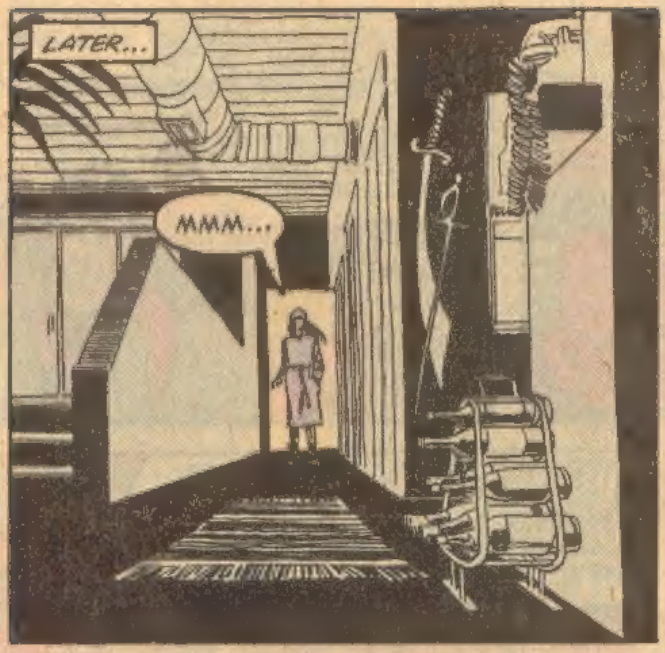
I LOVE KAREN. SHE LOVES ME. THAT MAKES HER VULNERABLE TO ME.
WHO PROTECTS HER? WHO PROTECTS HER FROM ME?
THAT FOOTSTEP, THAT SHAPE-- MY RADAR'S PINPOINTED HER.
THERE ARE NO WRITTEN LAWS TO THE REALM OF MORALITY. SO WHAT IS A CRIME, AND WHAT IS NOT?
THERE SHE IS!

MARY!
MATT! HI! I WAS JUST THINKING OF YOU!
I JUST CAME FROM THE INSTITUTE, I HAD A WONDERFUL SESSION WITH TYRONE.
HE NOW KNOWS HIS ROOM SO WELL, I THINK FOR A MOMENT THERE, HE EVEN FORGOT HE'S BLIND!

MARY... I'M SO GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR YOUR HELP THAT... I GUESS I MISTOOK MY FEELING OF GRATITUDE FOR SOMETHING...
SOMETHING ELSE...
I'M SORRY ABOUT YESTERDAY, I SHOULDN'T HAVE...
...KISSED YOU.

I LIVE WITH AND LOVE A WOMAN NAMED KAREN--
MY RADAR! PICKING UP AN IRREGULAR HEARTBEAT!
MATT...?

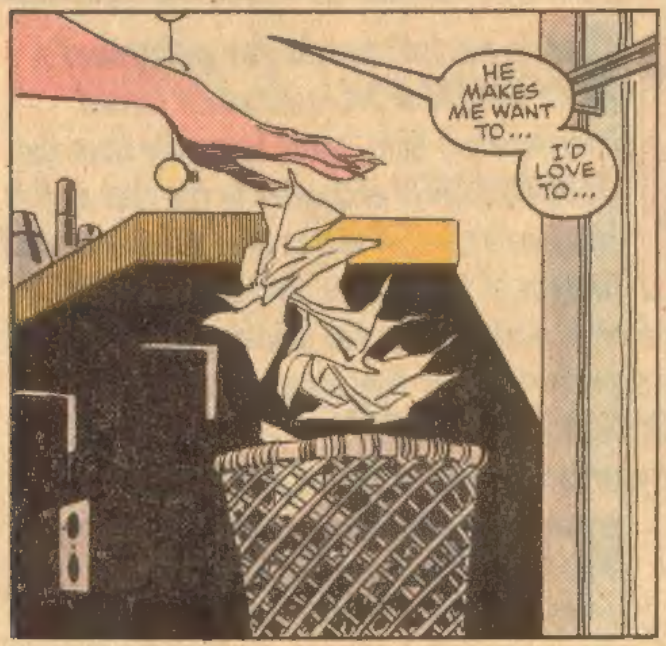
--A HEART ATTACK! THAT MAN!
OH GOD! MY CHEST --NO!!
STAND BACK! CALL AN AMBULANCE!
HIS HEART'S STOPPED!
JUST THE RIGHT PRESSURE...
GOT TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO CRACK A RIB...
--AND AGAIN!
THAT DID IT!
GET BACK, SIR! I'M A DOCTOR!
IT'S ALREADY DONE. HIS HEART BEATS AGAIN.
COME ON, MARY, FAST!
HEY, BUDDY, UH...THANKS...
!?!
WHY THE RUSH? YOU JUST SAVED A MAN'S LIFE, BROUGHT HIM BACK FROM THE DEAD...
I JUST HAVE TO GET AWAY!
BUT IT'S SO WONDERFUL!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
IT'S JUST WRONG, ALL WRONG...
WE CAN'T DO THIS...
...COME HERE...


LATER...
MMM...

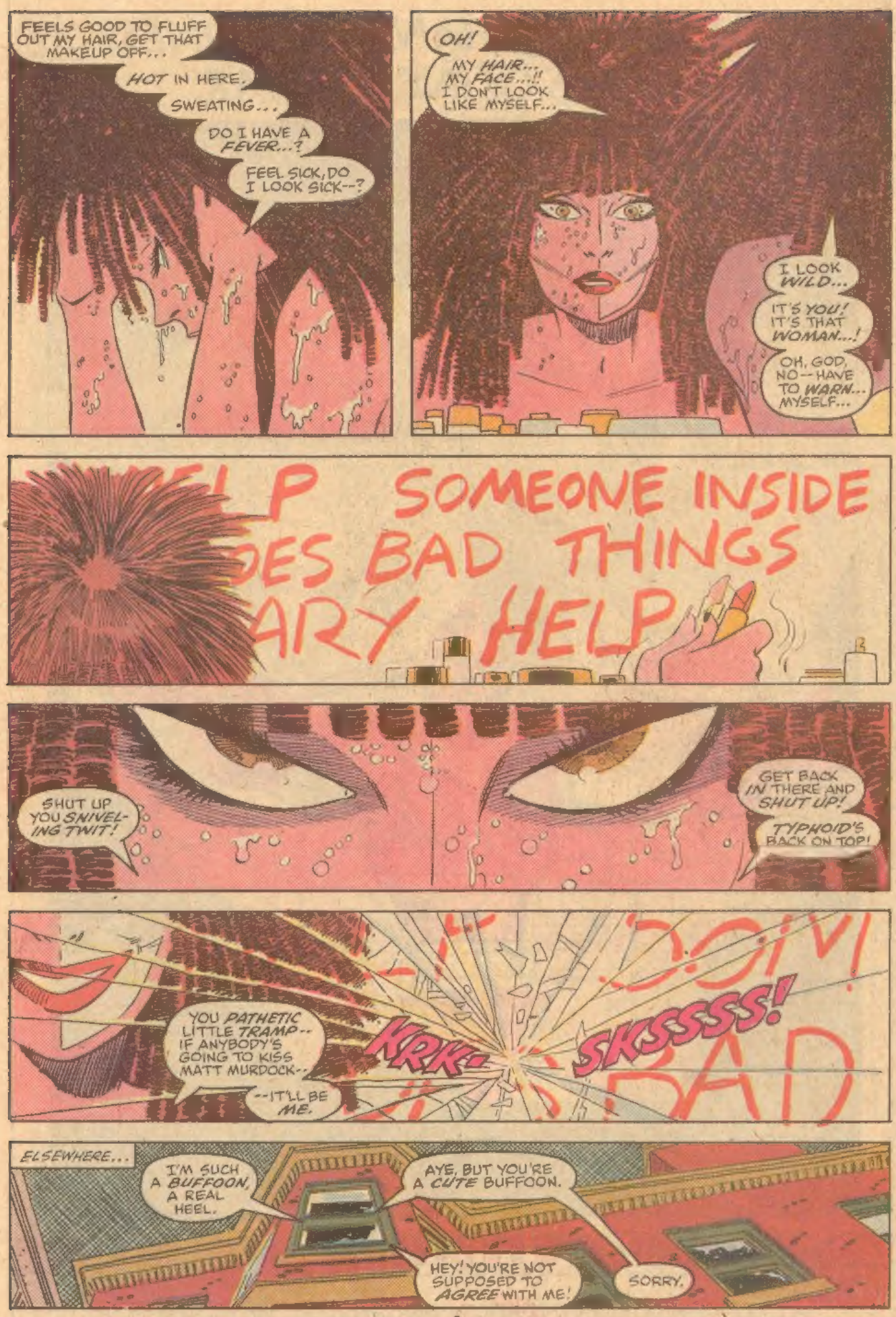
WHAT A KISS
OHHH. UHM.

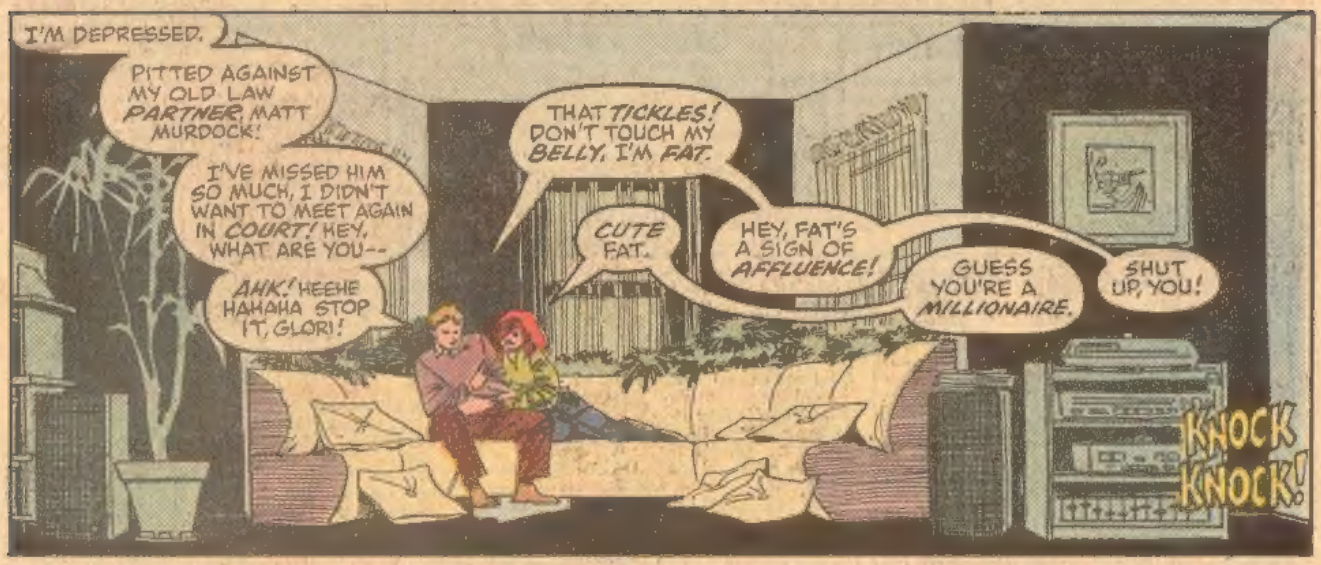
MMMMM
I THINK I STOPPED BREATHING...

HANDS SO STRONG... HELD MINE...
SO TIGHT...


HE MAKES ME WANT TO...
I'D LOVE TO...

SUCH A KISS...
A GIRL COULD LOSE HER MIND...


FEELS GOOD TO FLUFF OUT MY HAIR, GET THAT MAKEUP OFF...
HOT IN HERE, SWEATING... DO I HAVE A FEVER...? FEEL SICK, DO I LOOK SICK--?
OH! MY HAIR... MY FACE...!! I DON'T LOOK LIKE MYSELF...
I LOOK WILD...
IT'S YOU! IT'S THAT WOMAN...!
OH, GOD, NO -- HAVE TO WARN... MYSELF...
SOMEONE INSIDE
BAD THINGS
HELP
SHUT UP YOU SNIVELING TWIT!
GET BACK IN THERE AND SHUT UP!
TYPHOID'S BACK ON TOP!
YOU PATHETIC LITTLE TRAMP -- IF ANYBODY'S GOING TO KISS MATT MURDOCK--
--IT'LL BE ME.
KRK-
SKSSSS!
BAD
ELSEWHERE...
I'M SUCH A BUFFOON, A REAL HEEL.
AYE, BUT YOU'RE A CUTE BUFFOON.
HEY! YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO AGREE WITH ME!
SORRY.


I'M DEPRESSED.
PITTED AGAINST MY OLD LAW PARTNER, MATT MURDOCK!
I'VE MISSED HIM SO MUCH, I DIDN'T WANT TO MEET AGAIN IN COURT! HEY, WHAT ARE YOU--
AHK! HEEHE HAHAHA STOP IT, GLORI!
THAT TICKLES! DON'T TOUCH MY BELLY, I'M FAT.
CUTE FAT.
HEY, FAT'S A SIGN OF AFFLUENCE!
GUESS YOU'RE A MILLIONAIRE.
SHUT UP, YOU!
KNOCK KNOCK!

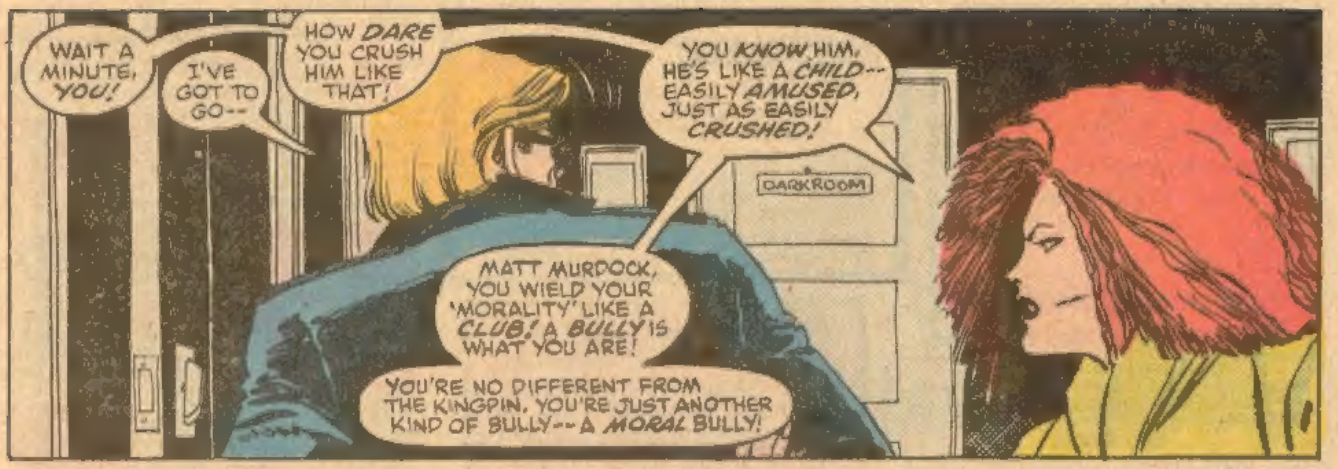
MATT! WHY--?
HELLO, GLORIANNA. IS HE HERE?
YES...

HELLO, FOGGY.
I JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU THAT I NOTICED SOMETHING IN COURT--
--THE KINGPIN OF CRIME, KNOW WHY HE WAS THERE?

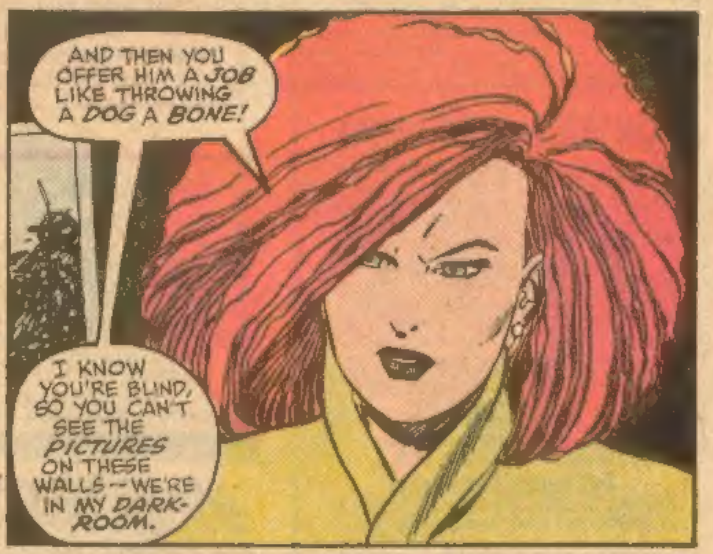
NO, YOU DON'T, DO YOU? HE OWNS KELCO. HE'S YOUR BOSS.

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, FOGGY? WHY DIDN'T YOU INVESTIGATE WHO YOU WERE WORKING FOR?
WHEN DID YOU BECOME THE KIND OF LAWYER THAT JUST TAKES THE MONEY AND RUNS?
THERE IS A MORALITY BEHIND LAW, A MORALITY WE LAWYERS MUST IMPOSE ON OURSELVES.

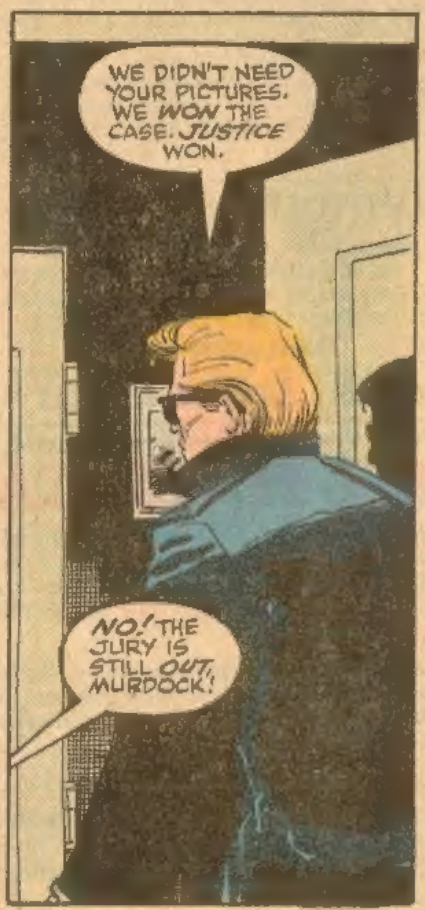
I ALSO CAME HERE TO OFFER YOU A JOB. I RUN THE FREE LEGAL AID CLINIC THAT BEAT YOU IN COURT YESTERDAY.
THE PAY IS LOW, BUT THERE ARE OTHER REWARDS.
THINK ABOUT IT, FOGGY. GOOD-BYE.


WAIT A MINUTE, YOU!
I'VE GOT TO GO--
HOW DARE YOU CRUSH HIM LIKE THAT!
YOU KNOW HIM, HE'S LIKE A CHILD-- EASILY AMUSED, JUST AS EASILY CRUSHED!
DARKROOM
MATT MURDOCK, YOU WIELD YOUR 'MORALITY' LIKE A CLUB! A BULLY IS WHAT YOU ARE!
YOU'RE NO DIFFERENT FROM THE KINGPIN. YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER KIND OF BULLY--A MORAL BULLY!

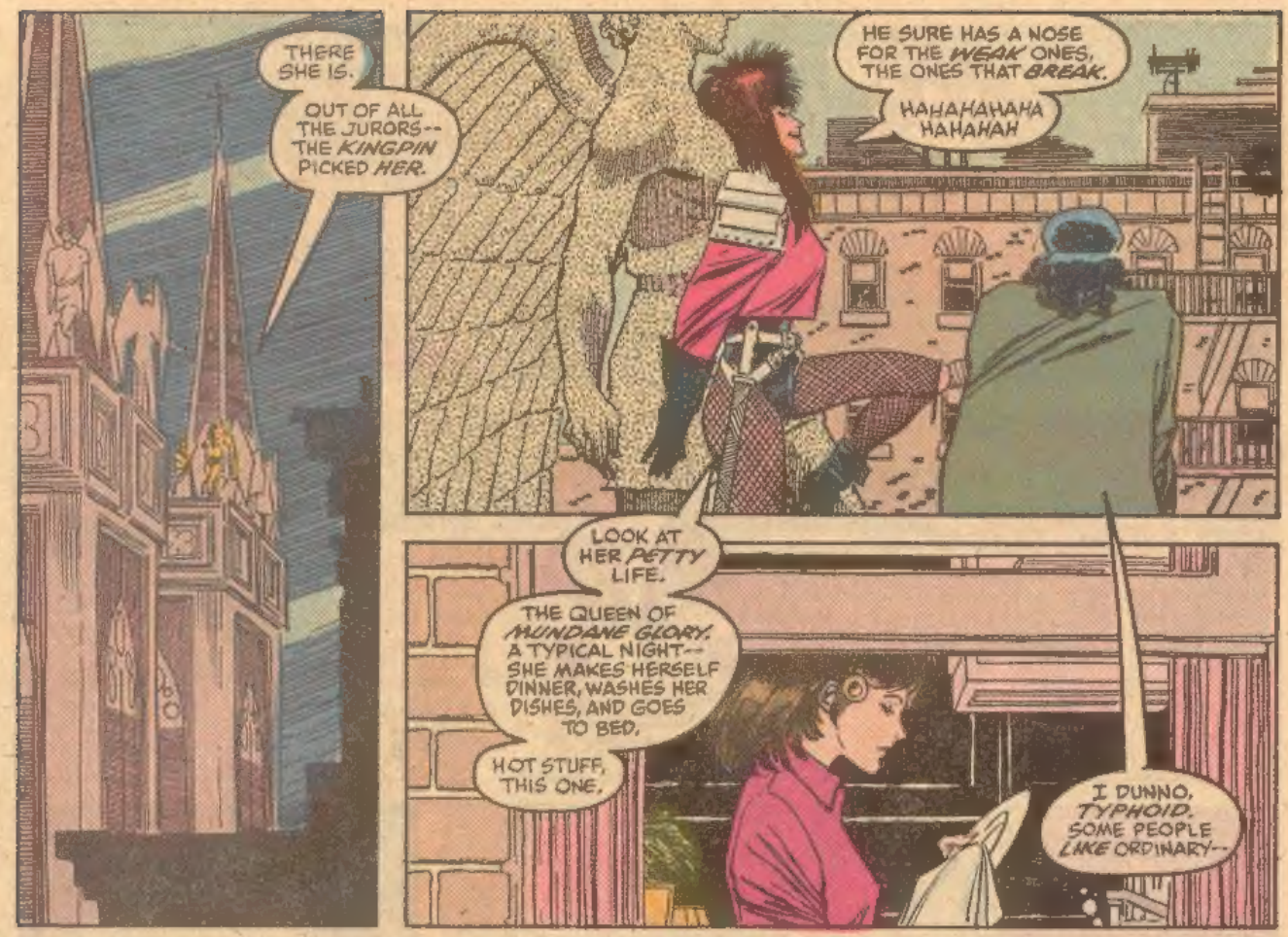
COME IN HERE-- WHO THE HECK DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?! WHY DID YOU DO THAT?
BECAUSE HE'S WITH ME?! BECAUSE HE OFFERED ME LOVE WHEN YOU ABANDONED ME, AND I TOOK IT?
YOU'RE ANGRY AT SOMETHING, AND YOU TOOK IT OUT ON POOR FOGGY! HE'S ALREADY HUMILIATED!
I DID WHAT I HAD TO DO.


AND THEN YOU OFFER HIM A JOB LIKE THROWING A DOG A BONE!
I KNOW YOU'RE BLIND, SO YOU CAN'T SEE THE PICTURES ON THESE WALLS -- WE'RE IN MY DARK-ROOM.

I HAVE EVIDENCE HERE THAT COULD HAVE HELPED YOUR CASE AND HURT FOGGY.
BUT I COULDN'T HURT HIM!


WE DIDN'T NEED YOUR PICTURES. WE WON THE CASE. JUSTICE WON.
NO! THE JURY IS STILL OUT, MURDOCK!

THE JURY'S STILL OUT ON THAT CASE--
--AND ON YOU, TOO!


THERE SHE IS.
OUT OF ALL THE JURORS-- THE KINGPIN PICKED HER.
HE SURE HAS A NOSE FOR THE WEAK ONES, THE ONES THAT BREAK.
HAHAHAHAHA HAHAHAH
LOOK AT HER PETTY LIFE.
THE QUEEN OF MUNDANE GLORY. A TYPICAL NIGHT-- SHE MAKES HERSELF DINNER, WASHES HER DISHES, AND GOES TO BED.
HOT STUFF, THIS ONE.
I DUNNO, TYPHOID. SOME PEOPLE LIKE ORDINARY--

SHUT UP, RIP. YOU ARE PATHETIC.
MMMMM. I LOVE THE COOL HARD STONE OF STATUES. I LOVE THEIR INDIFFERENCE.
THIS ONE'S GOT A BEAUTIFUL FACE-- LOOKS A BIT LIKE DAREDEVIL, MY MERRY CHRISTIAN.
MY BIG ANGEL.

LET'S GET TO WORK.
KK-KNCH!

WOW! SHE KICKED AN ANGEL' FELL RIGHT ON THE CHURCH STEPS
SHE'S GONNA GET IT!
AND MATT WAS RIGHT ABOUT TYPHOID MARY -- HE SAID SHE'D VISIT A JUROR
CAN'T BELIEVE SHE PICKED MY STAKE-OUT 'OBOY CAN'T WAIT TO TELL MATT!
PHONE
I'LL BET YOU SLAVE AT SOME BORING JOB, RIDE THOSE SUBWAYS, THOSE TORTURE TRAINS PACK YOURSELF IN WITH THE OTHER STIFFS--
-DAY IN, DAY OUT, SLAVING AWAY.. FOR WHAT? YOU'LL NEVER GET AHEAD
YOUR WORLD IS SO SMALL YOUR BILLS SO BIG..
YOUR FUTILE BORING PLODDING LIFE MAKES ME ASHAMED TO BE A WOMAN HAVEN'T YOU EVER HEARD OF FEMINISM?! LIBERATION?
WOMEN HAVE TO GRAB AT THE POWER, GET IT ANY WAY THEY CAN'
IF WE DON'T, IT ALL FALLS IN THE LAPS OF THE MEN.
WHO'S THE GUY IN THIS PICTURE? SOME GUY WHO LEFT YOU 'CAUSE YOU WERE SO DULL? STILL WAITIN' FOR HIM?
KEEP WAITIN', CINDERELLA FAIRY TALES
EVERY OBJECT IN THIS HOUSE IS SO CHEAP, YOU DESERVE BETTER.
WHAT DO YOU WANT YOU BETTER LEAVE I'LL CALL THE POLICE I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO TALK ABOUT THE CASE GET OUT OF HERE.
I'M NOT GOING TO ACCEPT A BRIBE..
OF COURSE NOT, DARLING I'LL JUST LEAVE IT HERE--IN YOUR LAP.
EVERYONE HAS A PRICE DARLING--
JUST HAPPEN TO BE CHEAP

SOON
YOUR JUROR IS BOUGHT. YOUR OPPOSITION'S UNANIMOUS YES JUST SWUNG TO A NO.
GOOD. STAKE OUT HER APARTMENT ALL NIGHT.
I DON'T WANT ANYONE TO SWAY HER BACK.
MR. LAU
YOU KNOW MR. KINGPIN YOU TOLD ME MURDOCK WAS SO MORAL.
WELL, I'M FINDING HIM AS WILLING TO CHEAT AS ANY GUY
HE MAY LIVE WITH HIS LITTLE HEART-THROB, BUT HE'S STILL HOT FOR MARY
BURN
FOOSH!
WE'VE BEEN HAVING A GOOD TIME
I KNOW I DON'T COLLECT MY MILLION TILL I BREAK [illegible]
BUT YOU KNOW IT'S STARTING TO BE WORTH LOSING THAT MILLION TO KEEP HIM AROUND

YOU CRAZY!?
DON'T WORRY RIP DARLING, I'M ONLY TEASING.
I'M GOING ALL THE WAY--
FOR THE CASH.
BESIDES, YOU'RE MY MAIN MAN
GET YOUR HANDS OFF HER!
KRSSSSSHK!
WHAT THE HECK'S GOIN' ON HERE?! IS HE YOUR NEW BOYFRIEND OR SOMETHIN'?
HAHAHAHA HAHA!
WHY'D YOU DO THAT SIR?
WELL BABY I DO
ELSEWHERE...
I WONDER IF SHE SOLD OUT TOOK THE MONEY?

AND IF SHE DIO, DO I HAVE THE RIGHT TO 'PERSUADE' HER BACK THE OTHER WAY?
WELL I'VE GOT TO DO IT POOR WOMAN
UH-OH--RADAR PICKING UP A MOVEMENT--THROWING A KNIFE!
WOOOSH
THUNK
TYPHOID!
IN THE FLESH SWEET HEART
STILL HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT THE EXTENT OF HER POWERS.
I'D BET I'LL EVEN THINGS UP--DOWN IN THE SEWERS. SHE'LL BE AS BLIND AS ME.
BUT WITH MY RADAR, I'LL BE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SEE
WHERE YOU GOING?--
HIGH-TAILING IT HUH, BABY?
COWARD

EVERYONE HAS A PRICE, DEVILMAN -- A LINE THEY THOUGHT THEY WOULDN'T CROSS!
IT'S TOO LATE FOR THE JUROR -- SHE CROSSED HER'S!
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU, MERRY CHRISTIAN? BET YOU SET UP LINES FOR YOURSELF
ANY OF THEM LATELY
IT'S SO HOT, SHE ALWAYS CONFUSES ME...
SHE TALKS IN INNUENDOES, AS IF I'M SUPPOSED TO KNOW THE DOUBLE MEANINGS!
GOTTA MOVE THEY MESS UP MY RADAR!
ABOVE ME -- ANOTHER TUNNEL!
SHE DIDN'T SEE ME CRAWL
WOMP!
WHOOOOPS!
HAHAHA HAHA!
HERE WE GO BABY!

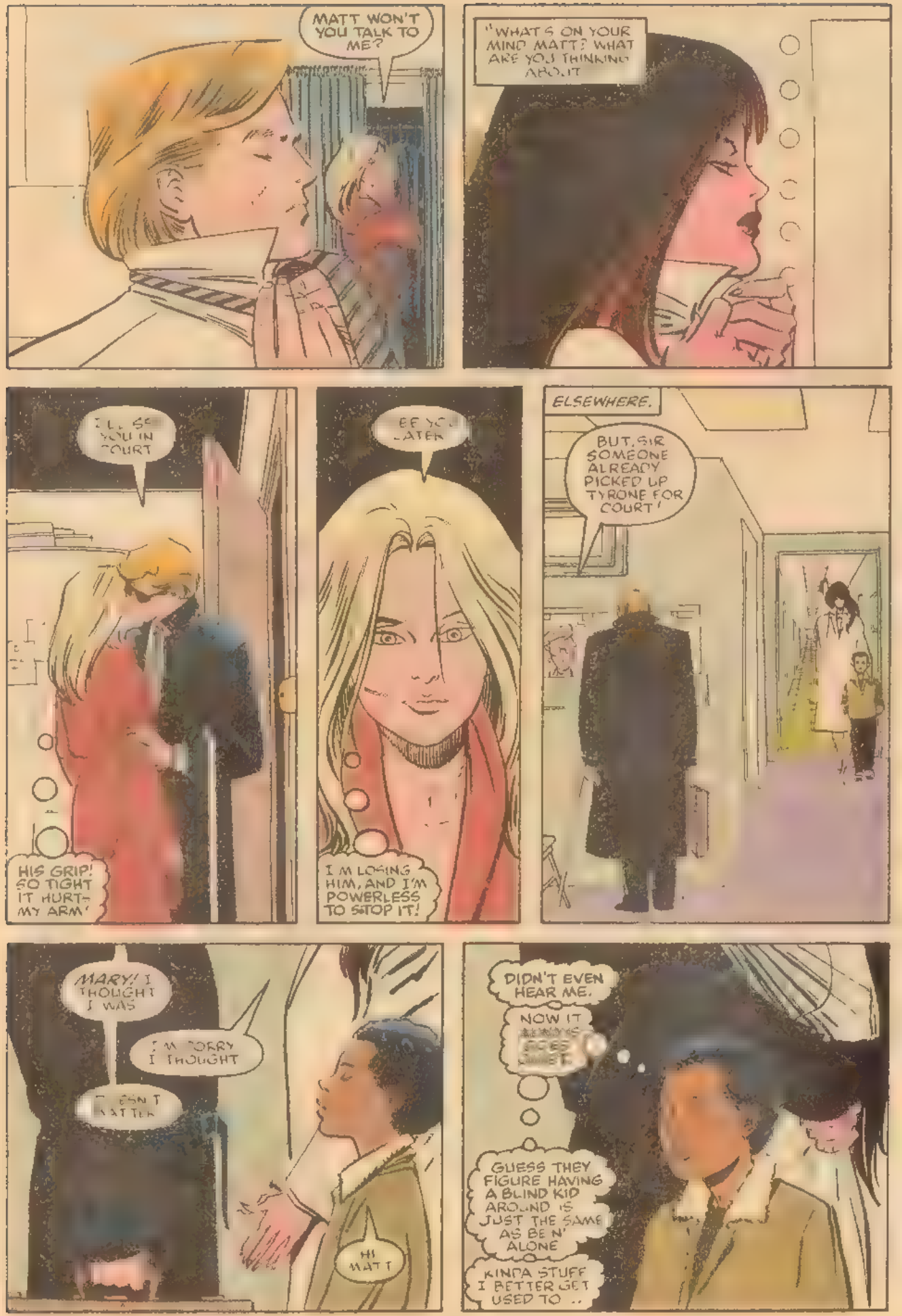
HAHAHA HAHAHA
I LOVE THE HATE IN YOUR EYES
I'M SO CLOSE TO SOMETHING ELSE!
YOU'RE A SICK, DEMENTED WOMAN AND I JUST WANT TO GET YOU OFF THE STREETS!
PHSS!
POP!
POP!
PHSS!
GIVE ME A BREAK!
YOU WEAR A RED SUIT AND PRANCE AROUND NEW YORK POWER TRIPPING!
WHO'S SICK!

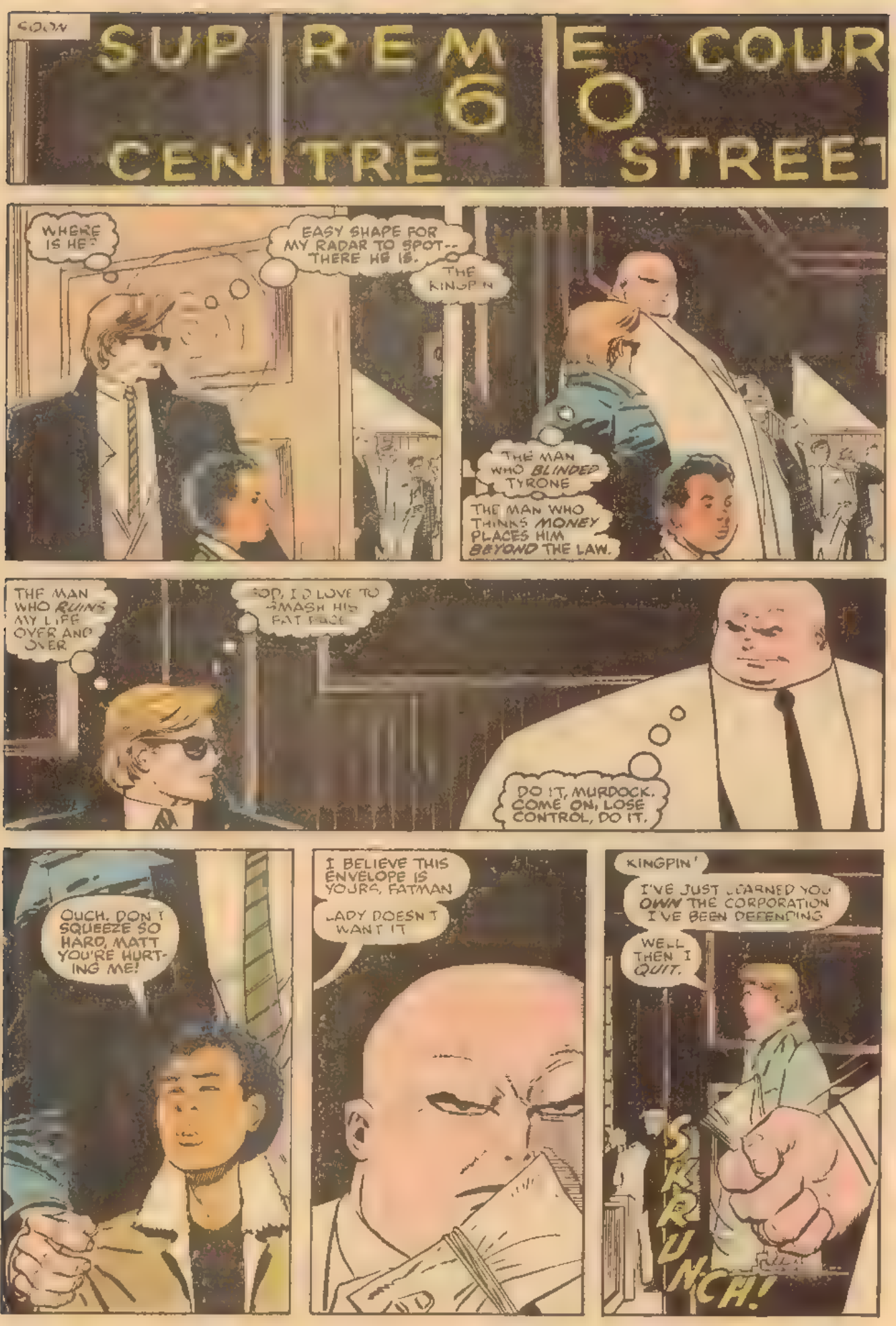
ADMIT IT YOU LOVE A GOOD FIGHT LIKE THE REST OF US
YOU LOVE IT WITH ME, BABYKINS.
NOW COME AND GET IT
HAHAHA HAHAHA
DARLING YOU ARE SO SLOW
WOOMPH!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS.
I DON'T WANT YOU, OR YOUR SICK GAMES!
YOU DISGUST ME! UNDERSTAND? YOU DISGUST ME!
SWEETHEART DARLING NOBODY MANHANDLES ME LIKE THAT

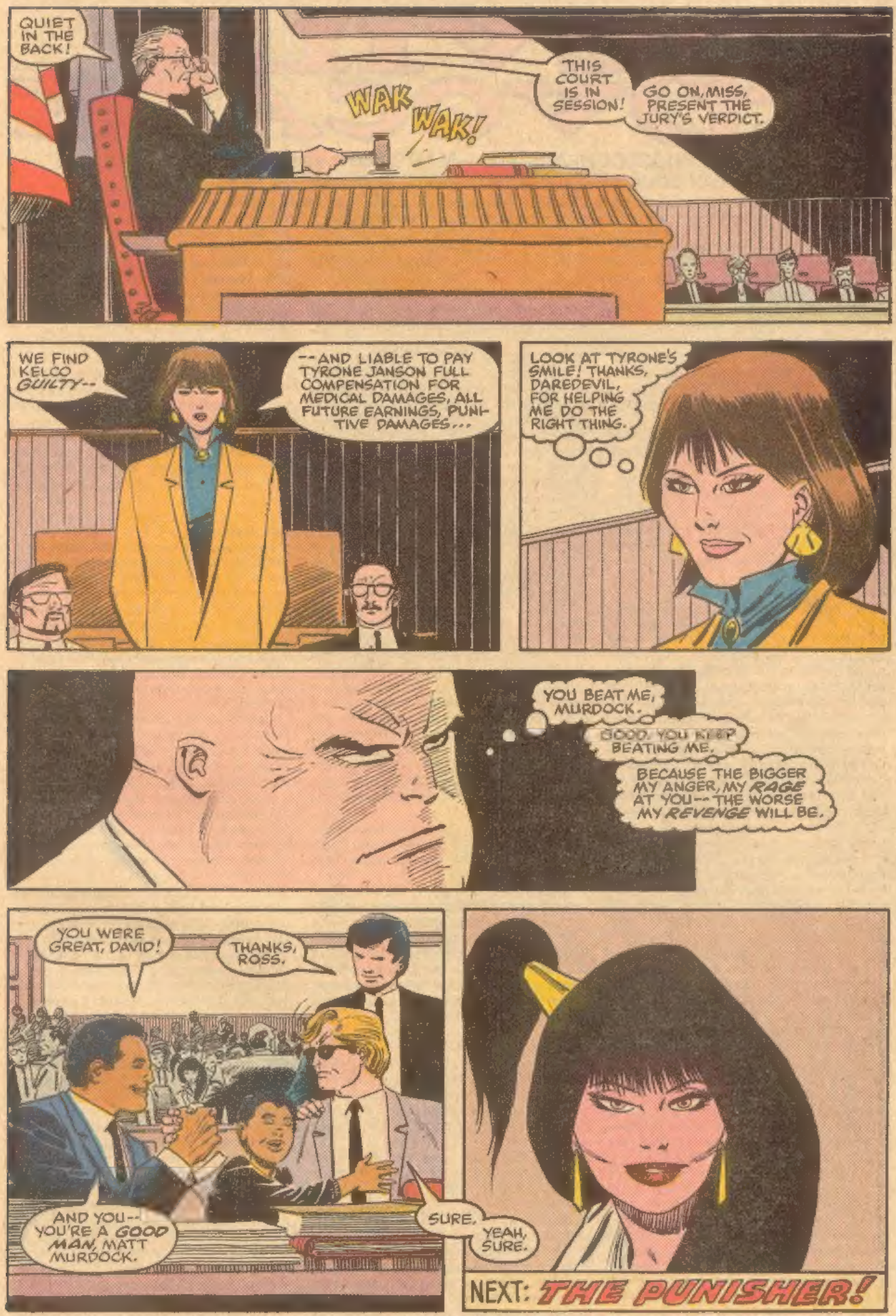
WOOOSH!
WOMP!
SPOOSH!
PKSS!
KSSP!
I GOT YOU, LOVERBOY.
YOU DON'T WANT ME?
THEN YOU'RE JUST DOGMEAT SWEETHEART

DON'T KILL HIM!
YOU! SHUT UP!
I LOVE
GET OUT OF MY HEAD!
YOU CAN'T KILL HIM!
GET OUT OF MY HEAD
WHERE AM I?
WHY AM I DRESSED LIKE THIS?
WHAT HAVE I DONE?!
THAT'S A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT WOMAN RUNNING AWAY
WHAT CAME OVER HER?
SOON AT THE APARTMENT OF THE JUROR
WHO ARE YOU?
WHAT DO YOU WANT

AND LATER
I FEEL SO DIRTY
MATT! IS THAT YOU?
I'M SCARED.
I'VE DONE SOMETHING HORRIBLE, I KNOW I HAVE
GOT TO WASH OFF THE FILTH
YOU'VE BEEN OUT ALL NIGHT!
COURT IS IN AN HOUR!
WHERE WERE YOU?
I'VE GOT TO SHOWER.
WHAT?
ARE YOU OKAY?
SO DIRTY FEEL SO DIRTY, GOT TO WASH IT ALL OFF.
WHAT IS IT WITH THAT... WOMAN
SHE INTRIGUES ME, DISGUSTS ME, CONFUSES ME
FEEL LIKE I'VE CAUGHT A FEVER...
I HAVE TO WASH OFF HER EVERY TOUCH...
CAN'T GET CLEAN NO MATTER HOW MANY SHOWERS
IT'S NOT JUST THE DIRT, IT'S ME. I'LL NEVER FEEL CLEAN AGAIN...


MATT WON'T YOU TALK TO ME?
"WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND MATT? WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT
I'LL SEE YOU IN COURT
HIS GRIP! SO TIGHT IT HURT- MY ARM!
SEE YOU LATER
I'M LOSING HIM, AND I'M POWERLESS TO STOP IT!
ELSEWHERE.
BUT, SIR SOMEONE ALREADY PICKED UP TYRONE FOR COURT!
MARY! I THOUGHT I WAS
I'M SORRY I THOUGHT
DOESN'T MATTER
HI MATT
DIDN'T EVEN HEAR ME.
NOW IT ALWAYS GOES SILENT.
GUESS THEY FIGURE HAVING A BLIND KID AROUND IS JUST THE SAME AS BEIN' ALONE
KINDA STUFF I BETTER GET USED TO ..


SUP REM E COUR
CEN TRE O STREET
WHERE IS HE?
EASY SHAPE FOR MY RADAR TO SPOT-- THERE HE IS.
THE KINGPIN
THE MAN WHO BLINDED TYRONE
THE MAN WHO THINKS MONEY PLACES HIM BEYOND THE LAW.
THE MAN WHO RUINS MY LIFE OVER AND OVER
GOD, I'D LOVE TO SMASH HIS FAT FACE
DO IT, MURDOCK. COME ON, LOSE CONTROL, DO IT.
OUCH. DON'T SQUEEZE SO HARD, MATT YOU'RE HURTING ME!
I BELIEVE THIS ENVELOPE IS YOURS, FATMAN
LADY DOESN'T WANT IT
KINGPIN'
I'VE JUST LEARNED YOU OWN THE CORPORATION I'VE BEEN DEFENDING
WELL THEN I QUIT.
SKRUNCH!


QUIET IN THE BACK!
WAK WAK!
THIS COURT IS IN SESSION!
GO ON, MISS, PRESENT THE JURY'S VERDICT.
WE FIND KELCO GUILTY--
--AND LIABLE TO PAY TYRONE JANSON FULL COMPENSATION FOR MEDICAL DAMAGES, ALL FUTURE EARNINGS, PUNITIVE DAMAGES...
LOOK AT TYRONE'S SMILE! THANKS, DAREDEVIL, FOR HELPING ME DO THE RIGHT THING.
YOU BEAT ME, MURDOCK.
GOOD. YOU KEEP BEATING ME.
BECAUSE THE BIGGER MY ANGER, MY RAGE AT YOU--THE WORSE MY REVENGE WILL BE.
YOU WERE GREAT, DAVID!
THANKS, ROSS.
AND YOU--YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, MATT MURDOCK.
SURE.
YEAH, SURE.
NEXT: THE PUNISHER!

Bullpen Bulletins

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"I MUST EITHER SUPPORT A DOOMED REVOLT WHICH WILL RESULT IN THE SLAUGHTER OF MILLIONS OF MY BROTHERS — OR DO NOTHING AND BE BRANDED A TRAITOR TO MY RACE AND TO FREEDOM EVERYWHERE!"

— T'CHALLA, THE BLACK PANTHER, BLACK PANTHER #1

ITEM: A hearty welcome back goes to Hardhitting *Harry Candelario* of our frenetic photostat department, who just got back from the U.S. Marine Corps! Harry took seven months off to attend boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina, and then communications school at 29 Palms, California. He now has a Com Center Man Billet, which means he's learned the basics about the technology and techniques of military communications. The sturdy Mr. C will now spend one weekend a month and two full weeks of every year serving the Marines — the rest of the time he'll be at mighty Marvel, shooting stats, and keeping the junior bullpenners in line! Way to hang tough, Harry!

ITEM: We have several new additions to the ever-changing ranks of the mighty Marvel editorial elite. First, there's *A.A. Perry*, who's taking *David Wohl's* place in the Special Projects Department, assisting *Craig Anderson*. Andrew's got a B.A. in Literature and Film from Antioch College and put in a stint here as a college intern prior to his ascension into the rank and file. (Diligent David has moved across the hall to assume the duties of the departing *Joanna Spaldo* as assistant editor to *Howard Mackie* on the New Universe line.) Then there's *Kelly Corvese*, who's signed on as an Editorial Assistant, aiding Senior Editorial Secretary *Sue Flaxman* and inputting almost all of our lifting letters pages into the master computer system. Kelly's a graduate of the Swedish Institute and is a part time masseur. He hopes to someday use those same hands to pencil comics. And last but not least, there's *Barbara Arnstein*, who's come aboard as Editorial Secretary to Executive Ed *Mark Gruenwald*. Barbara's led a checkered career in the print and electronic media, and moonlights as a freelance writer for various New York area newspapers and magazines. Welcome to the creative chaos that is Marvel, people!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The most exciting television event of the decade is coming to NBC sometime this May! At last! Due to popular demand THE INCREDIBLE HULK (starring Bill Bixby and Lou Ferrigno) will be returning to the airways in a special two hour movie (proudly produced by those fabulous folks at New World Entertainment)!

And pay attention to this! The movie will also feature THE MIGHTY THOR! That's right! Good ol' Goldilocks will be making his very first live-action appearance on network television. Rumor has it that this movie may even help launch a brand-new weekly THOR television series if enough people watch it and call their local television stations to rave about it! (Take the hint, will you?)

Needless to say, your ever-batty Bullpen is real excited by the thought of seeing the Mighty Thor battle The Incredible Hulk on national TV. It's bound to be the greatest battle the television world has seen since Leonard took on Hagler, Holmes challenged Tyson and Sledge Hammer lost to Cosby. Miss it not!

Pro File: PAT REDDING

Assistant Editor on: My title is "managing editor," which may be freely interpreted. I work on THE 'NAM, SEMPER FI, STEELTOWN ROCKERS, CONAN SAGA, CONAN THE BARBARIAN, CONAN THE KING, SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN, and the 'NAM MAGAZINE, A SAILOR'S STORY, SHADOW graphic novel, etc.

Marvel freelance credits (past): As an inker, some Thundercats covers (over Bob Camp), some John Buscema Conan stuff, over June Brigman on Young Astronauts, which never saw print, a Steve Ditko *What If* (stay tuned!) and lots more!

Marvel freelance credits (present): Nothing at present, for Marvel, but I'm open for suggestions (hint, hint).

My hobbies are: Playing guitar in my band, the Thugs, but that's more than just a hobby. The rest of them won't be discussed here.

The single work of which I am most proud is: The Thugs backdrop: a prototypical Thug surfing on an iron board on spectacularly rendered waves. It's on black imitation velvet and is satisfyingly garish.

My pet peeves are: People who don't pay attention to things that *matter*.

My place of birth is: Washington, Dee Cee, our nation's capital.

My greatest accomplishment outside the comics field is: To be decided individually by others.

My oddest habit is: None of your business.

If they were making a movie of my life, I'd like to see my part played by: Since Lee Marvin died, it would definitely have to be Tura Satana. Mark Chiarello says "Jack Elam."

The reason I got into comics was: Larry Hama asked *me*, and I said "Why not!?"

People who knew me in High School thought I was: Never going to be a good golfer.

My favorite performers are: All Elvis impersonators, Tesco Vee, Handsome Dick Manitoba, Bam Bam Bigelow, to name a few.

The last good book I read was: "The Killer Inside Me," by Jim Thompson.

The last good movie I saw was: "Ironweed."

The biggest influences on my work include: As an editor, Larry Hama. As an inker, Wally Wood, Noel Sickles, Milt Caniff, Frank Frazetta, Alex Toth, Michael Golden, Bob Camp.

My greatest unfulfilled ambition in the comics field is: Not to be taken for granted.

The worst part of my job is: That I'm not officially a full-fledged editor.

When nobody's looking I like to: Look at *them*.

The one thing I really want the world to know about me is: I just *talk* that way — if I wasn't a champ speller and a competent grammarian with a pragmatic vocabulary, then I wouldn't be editing!

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

RALPH MACCHIO: editor—MARC SIRY: assistant editor

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP-387 Park Avenue South-New York, New York-10016

Attention correspondents: if you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear Devil's Advocate,

I am a twenty-one year old college student who has read DAREDEVIL for years and have always thought DD to be one of the highest caliber of comic characters.

But now, under the direction of Ann Nocenti, DAREDEVIL has reached a new height. The book has more flavor, more umph. My girlfriend is a psychology major and she has begun to read DAREDEVIL. She, as I, find characters like Rotgut and Bullet fascinating as the emphasis is on why they do rather than what they can do.

DAREDEVIL is brought above the level of cops and robbers, shoot 'em up mentality. Pleez keep it up, Ann

Darren Carlson
Seattle, Washington

If you like the characters you've seen so far, you'll go bonkers for the new ones Ann and John have planned.

Dear Marvel,

I felt I must write as soon as I read DAREDEVIL #250 to congratulate you and Ann for the best DAREDEVIL issue that I could have hoped for. I was hoping the 250th issue would contain some good stuff but this has exceeded my expectations. For one, I am pleased that Foggy has shown his face and I especially like the circumstances of his appearance. With him defending Kelco, and Matt against Kelco, it looks like a confrontation between old partners. That would be something. Yet I can't help wondering how that is going to be possible. With Matt's clinic threatened to be shut down, Save the Planet's case would have to be dropped along with everything else. But I can't accept that and neither will Matt I bet. If Matt does go to court, he will have to convince everyone that he isn't a lawyer but rather a "Legal Adviser." But that will be hard. They have a good case against him. And since he can't be a lawyer, he might need to hire someone to defend him. This is where Foggy might fit in. This is interesting, yet I suppose I'll have to wait to see just how clinic and Foggy. As for 250's "villain," he was just another bad guy that I thought wasn't bad. In costume, he seemed evil, an egotistical person. But when we got a closer look, like when he was talking to his son, he was a different person. He was caring (even though he was sort of nasty toward Lance. But if he were my son and he started talking that way, I'd wonder too). Bullet seemed to love his son, something that his costumed identity didn't seem to have. I will be looking forward to more development of this character in future issues. In January's "Profile," Ann Nocenti was featured. In "Single Work of Which I am Most Proud," she said upcoming DAREDEVILs. GREAT!! It has to be good! Before I forget, I want to thank you for running the letter column. It was nice, as it was the first time in quite a while. Crew, I hope you can continue to produce excellent issues. You're doing a MARVELous job!

Bill Climer
3330 Richwood-La Rue Road
La Rue, Ohio 43332

You HOPE we will continue to produce excellent issues? For shame. You KNOW we will. Even with Ralph in semi-control.

Dear Ralph,

With issue #250 of DAREDEVIL ("Boom"), Ann Nocenti has truly managed to make this title completely her own, much the way that Frank Miller did when he took over the writing and art on DAREDEVIL several years ago. This story had just about everything in it: an interesting villain (Bullet), Matt Murdock's inevitable problems with the authorities over his new free law clinic, and yet another example of Ann's ongoing explorations of psychology (in this case, Bullet's son's paranoid reactions to the threat of a nuclear war). Ann's storytelling skills seem to strengthen with each new issue and her feel for the many diverse characters that have appeared in this book over the past year is one of the best reasons why DAREDEVIL is still one of Marvel's five or six best titles. However, there was one event in this issue that overshadowed virtually everything else: the arrival of John Romita Jr., a new D.D. regular penciler. I have been a great admirer of John Jr.'s dynamic, larger-than-life approach to comic art since his long stint on X-MEN and his work on this story was definitely among his finest to date. With this writer and artist team, DAREDEVIL has definitely got a shot at being Marvel's best title.

John Andrew Lay
7380 Burton Street
Romulus, Michigan 48174

We think John is pretty excellent ourselves, and are constantly amazed with his pencils. He also amazed us recently with news of his engagement! As you know, John was once Marvel's "Hunk of the Month," so ALL the girls have been chasing him. Well, now he's been caught. We wish him and his fiancee, the lovely Patty Baker, all the best.

Dear Ann,

Y'know, for a lady who looks like a character from Gasoline Alley (yeah I got that Fanfare issue), you sure are one heckuva complicated lady! There must be one granddaddy of a mind behind those block button eyes of yours!

DAREDEVIL has never had so many words in an issue, and one word from you says five from somebody else, if that's saying something!

Your run on D.D. will be a lot more than a wonderful addition to the DAREDEVIL legacy. It'll be an education.

Teach us, Ann. Teach us how to write comics right. Teach us everything you know, 'cause I want to know.

One suggestion: I like Karen, but nothing in comic books lasts forever. If Karen and Matt ever do break up, I'd like to see the Black Widow once more grace these pages while you are having her do the talking. It would be very nice for once in this book's history to see Matt falling all over Natasha, instead of the other way around.

Keep that typewriter clacking. Me? I'm just gonna sit back here in awe.

David John Carragher
16 Sycamore Lane
Chester Springs, Pennsylvania

But if Ann is kept busy teaching, then she won't have any time to write. She can't teach anyway. We still have her locked up in the room with the strobe light.

Dear Ralph,

I have puzzled over my own reactions to DAREDEVIL #250 for some time now, and would like to take this opportunity to convey the reasons underlying this sense of ambiguity. The American philosopher Charles Pierce believes confusion to be the state of displeasure; therefore, if the writing of this letter serves merely self-therapeutic ends, I would still hope that some food for thought is provided for both you and the readers of DAREDEVIL.

Consider now your initial reactions to my introductory paragraph. Did it not seem to smack of pedantry? Moreover, did not my ascription of food for thought, especially for the readers of DAREDEVIL, suggest at least a somewhat pompous attitude? I think that it did. And I also think that if Ann Nocenti is not very careful, her own may provoke similar criticism. I am indeed referring to the political context which permeates the current storyline.

Artistic merit may, and perhaps should, be conceived as both a potential antagonist and a potential instructor; an antagonist, in that inherent dangers lie in that which acts as both a precursor to and an initiator of conceptual change; an instructor, in that it relays a qualitative difference between the old modes of communication on which it relies to make its points known, and the new sense of things its point promotes. Often times, however, an artist is shackled by what she wishes to communicate. Plot lines become dense to the point of being turgid, characters resist capture as characters and become either mouthpieces or symbols of moral qualms. Artificiality comes to reign, and the desire to communicate a new sense of things is supplanted by a reactionary fervour. I believe that Dostoevsky's THE DEVILS is an excellent case in point. The ebb of artistic control in this novel parallels a rise in derivative artistic means. New or original sense is not made; all that is plotted is a predictable decline in the societal realm of mores and norms.

Three things as I see it save DAREDEVIL #250 from falling under just such criticism. (1) The excellent artwork of Romita and Will-

iamson. The cinematic style pervading the story's depiction lends corrective dynamics for a plot which could easily be represented as overtly rigid. (2) The very medium of comics. It simply does not allow the dynamics of action to be supplanted by purely conceptual self-therapeutic ends. (3) The simple fact that Nocenti is an exceptional artist and obviously very intelligent. The ethical problems dealt with are given due complexity (as is not the case in recent issues of CAPTAIN AMERICA). These three factors serve not only to dissuade one from making the type of criticism I've attempted to describe, but as well provided DAREDEVIL with the degree of potential perhaps only X-MEN has in fact realized. I sincerely hope that Nocenti displays the care necessary to save DAREDEVIL from such criticism in the future. And alongside this hope lies an anticipation for what I believe could become a comic on par with the best Marvel has to offer.

Stephen Alcala
Toronto, Canada

But did you like it? Seriously though, let's not forget the most important thing. This is one of the many forms of story telling. And regardless of the way it is handled, or the medium it is presented in, the point is to entertain. And that is what we are here for. Month after month, our goal is to entertain you, our MARVELous readers. And if we can slip in something meaningful, something that makes you stop and think, then it's frosting on the cake.

Dear Ann and John,

Issue #250 of DAREDEVIL was very good. Bullet looks like a real good villain. The most interesting part of this issue was the fact that Daredevil did not appear in costume once and I didn't miss him. I like the idea of Matt running a free clinic and I hope that it isn't shut down. You can bet that the Kingpin is somehow involved.

Although I feel that you may have spent too much time setting up the nuclear war story line, you sure did raise some interesting points. It seems that our children are much more traumatized over the thought of nuclear war than the adults are. You also did a very good job showing the effects that this traumatization had on Lance.

I really had to laugh at the sight of Karen hanging Matt's costume out to dry. I am sure that Matt will be sorry for fighting Bullet without, at least, putting his mask on.

I am glad to see that John Romita will be taking over as artist on DAREDEVIL although I do have a complaint about issue #250. The cover showed Daredevil fighting Bullet with his costume on. We know this isn't the case in the story. Although Matt wouldn't have been as recognizable on the cover, I would have been more intrigued seeing Matt fight Bullet on the cover. All things considered, this was a very good issue but I am sure that you can do much better.

Charles S. Novinskie
415 30 Road
Grand Junction, Colorado 81504

Matt on the cover, huh? I can see it now. A big, bad, Bullet picking on a blindman. Now if we had put Ralph on the cover instead of Daredevil, then . . .

NEXT ISSUE: So the big, bad Kingpin finally got his come-uppance in this month's story. Daredevil won't be celebrating long, though — next month he runs right smack into the PUNISHER! It's billy club vs. bazooka in "BULLY," on sale in thirty days!

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